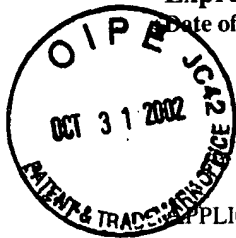


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Farmer  
ASSIGNEE: Ganeden Biotech, Inc.  
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/647,695 EXAMINER: Davis, R.  
FILING DATE: April 6, 2001 ART UNIT: 1651  
FOR: METHODS FOR REDUCING CHOLESTEROL USING BACILLUS COAGULANS  
SPORES SYSTEMS AND COMPOSITIONS

October 31, 2002  
Boston, Massachusetts

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TECH CENTER 1600/2900

In response to the Office Action mailed on May 31, 2002, please amend the application as follows.

In the claims:

Cancel claim 2-3 and replace the pending claims with the following:

B<sup>1</sup>  
1. (twice amended) A method for decreasing serum cholesterol and increasing serum HDL in a patient comprising administering to the digestive tract of said patient an effective amount of a composition comprising a viable lactic acid-producing bacteria and a therapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of an effective amount of a cholesterol-reducing agent and a bifidogenic oligosaccharide, wherein said lactic-acid producing bacteria is *Bacillus coagulans*.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said composition contains  $10^5$  to  $10^{10}$  viable bacterium per gram of composition.